

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|-----------------------|---|
| Applicant             | Serguei Vatchians   |
| Serial No. 10/        | Filing Date: July 15, 2003  |
| Title of Application: | A Method For Production Of Metal Foam Or Metal-Composite Bodies With Improved Impact, Thermal And Sound Absorption Properties |

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 Post Office Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment**

Dear Sir:

Please enter this preliminary amendment before examination of this case.

**In the claims:**

1. (original) A method for the production of metal chips comprising the steps of:
  - i) providing a mixture of a metal alloy powder with a foaming agent powder, said foaming agent having a given decomposition temperature above which the foaming agent decomposes into gas, and said powders comprising finely dispersed solid particles;
  - ii) pre-compacting the mixture of step i);
  - iii) heating the pre-compacted mixture of step ii) to a temperature below said decomposition temperature and at which permanent bonding of the particles can occurs;
  - v) hot compacting the mixture obtained in step iii) for producing a compacted body made of a metal matrix embedding the foaming agent; and
  - vi) reducing the compacted body into metal fragments and thereby obtaining foamable metal chips.
  
2. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step i) of providing the metal alloy powders and the foaming agent powder comprises the step of: